



DATE: February 22, 2013

ISSUE: License Renewal of South Texas 1 and 2 –Draft Supplement 48 to the Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) and Waste Confidence Rule

BACKGROUND: The South Texas Project (STP), Units 1 and 2, are pressurized water reactors located approximately 90 miles Southwest of Houston near Bay City, Texas. The original operating licenses for STP 1 and 2 were issued on March 22, 1998 and March 28, 1989, respectively. If the license is renewed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the STP can continue to operate for an additional 20 years past the current license expiration date. The NRC makes the decision to grant or deny license renewal based on whether the applicant has demonstrated that the environmental and safety requirements in the agency's regulations can be met during the period of extended operation. State regulatory agencies and STPNOC will ultimately decide whether the plant will continue to operate based on factors such as the need for power or other matters within the State's jurisdiction or the purview of the owners.

The DSEIS that was submitted for review on December 5, 2012 with a 60 day review period. The document did not include information on how long nuclear waste can remain at the nuclear facility after decommissioning. The information not being included is a national issue because there are several licenses that will be renewed throughout the United States. Region 6 was the first to receive a project without this information. Therefore, the NEPA office discussed the Waste Confidence Rule (Rule) with the Office of Federal Activities on January 16, 2013. It was decided that similar language used in the Region 6 comment letter would be used in all comment letters regarding Waste Confidence Rule. With the assistance of OFA, a paragraph was included in the comment letter which explained our expectations. EPA requested that additional NEPA analysis be conducted as appropriate before making final licensing decisions.

CURRENT STATUS: The NEPA program submitted comments to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on February 20, 2013. The DSEIS was rated as EC-2. The "EC" rating is based on the potential for adverse impacts to:

- groundwater resources, and
- offsite radiological impacts from the uranium fuel cycle.

The "2" indicates insufficient information to fully assess:

- threatened and endangered species, and
- long-term storage of on-site nuclear waste.

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